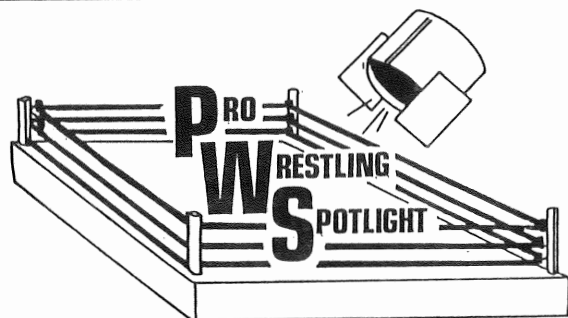




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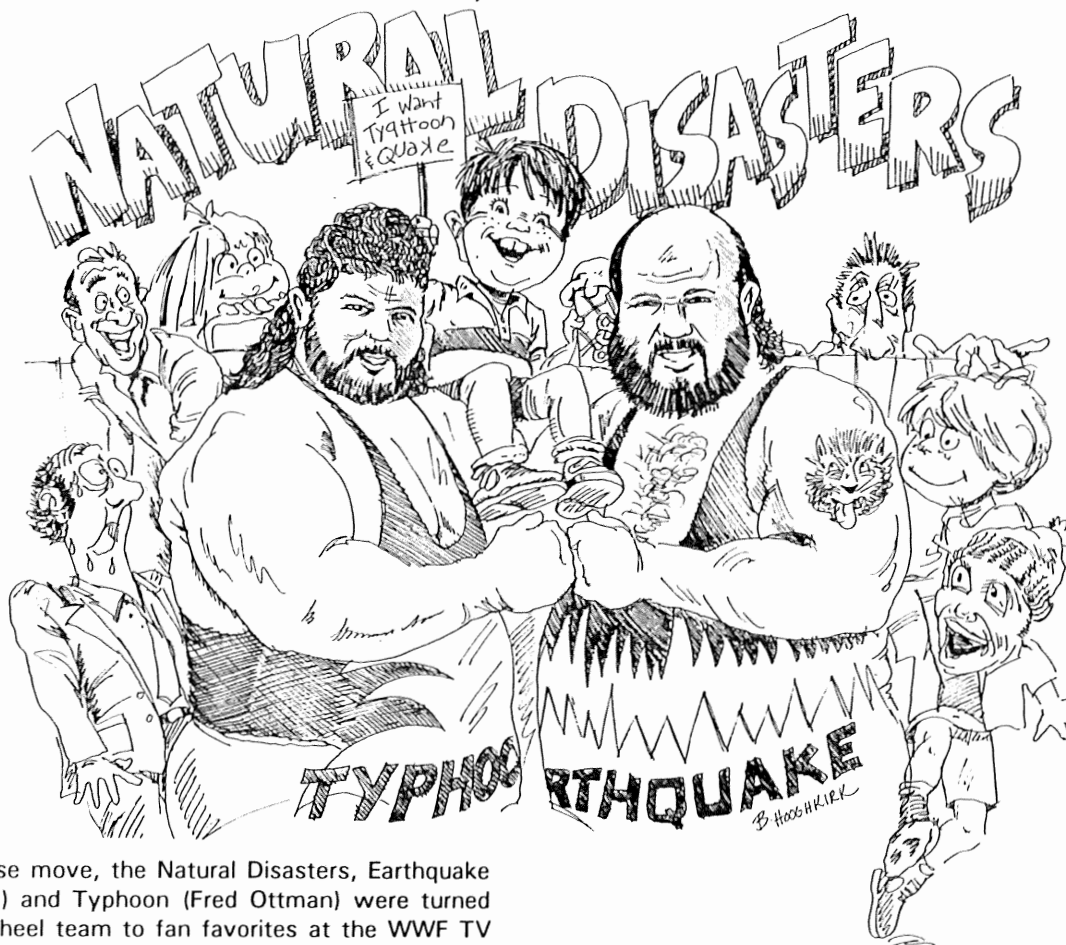
MARCH 9, 1992

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NATURAL DISASTERS FAN FAVORITES!

by JOHN AREZZI



In a surprise move, the Natural Disasters, Earthquake (John Tenta) and Typhoon (Fred Ottman) were turned from hated heel team to fan favorites at the WWF TV tapings Feb 17th in Florida. Jimmy Hart, new manager of the WWF tag champs, Ted DiBiase and IRS, cheated the Disasters out of a shot for the tag title against the Legion of Doom. Hart also managed the Disasters.

Look for the Disasters to face IRS and DiBiase at Wrestlemania VIII. This turn was not in the initial plans but with LOD history, and Jim Neidhart also gone, Titan is seriously in need of babyface tag teams.

With guys dropping like flies in the WWF, and Wrestlemania just a month away, one would hope that the remainder of the card be finalized fast.

**SEX SCANDAL
ROCKS
WWF**

See page 2

RUMOR MILL

by JOHN AREZZI

What's going on with Jake "The Snake" Roberts, is he on his way out of Titanland...Roberto Duran will take on Masahara Funoki in a boxer vs. wrestler match in Tokyo on April 19th...Paul Roma makes his pro heavyweight boxing debut on March 6th in the Catskills resort area. Roma is being trained by ex-Mike Tyson trainer Kevin Rooney...How coincidental was it that the WWF also released a new steroid policy (unobtainable at press time) for all its employees, including front office personnel...Ticket sales for Wrestlemania could use a strong shot in the arm. With less than 20,000 sold, it will take a massive rush to even 3/4 fill the Hoosier Dome. How about adding Elizabeth vs. Sherri, Terry Garvin and Pat Patterson vs. Barry O and any investigative reporter, and Vince McMahon vs. Dave Meltzer to make it interesting to the hard core fans...Major articles in San Diego and Los Angeles pushed back a week or so. The weekend of March 13th will be one which might live in infamy...Buddy Rogers still waiting to get back in the ring to wrestle one more time. Don't be surprised if PWS contacts Rogers about a match at the annual "Weekend of Champions Convention" scheduled Aug 22 and 23 in NYC. Fans from around the country will now be able to hear the Pro Wrestling Spotlight Radio Hour LIVE as it happens with a special new 900 call-in number to debut next week. Through ACI Communications in Las Vegas, the new PWS 900 number will give you daily updates, a live gab day as well as the live broadcast each Sunday night. This has been something I've wanted to do since beginning the wrestling show three years ago. We'll give you the details next week...New additions to our "Early Days" video series. Cactus Jack, Paul E. Dangerously, Kevin Sullivan and Fallen Angel ("Woman") have all been inked to provide footage from their personal collections. Great stuff!

Cactus Jack baby watch -- Cactus and Colette are the proud parents of an 8 lb. 6 oz. baby boy named Dewey, born Feb 20th. Sting also had an addition. Steven James Borden, Jr. was born last week. Who knows, in 20 years a great father-son vs. father-son match could take place...Gordon Solie, "the dean of wrestling announcers" being phased out to handling promos in Florida...Larry Sharpe and Bam Bam Bigelow face off in the courts on March 23rd. Sharpe claims Bigelow breached contract with the Monster Factory Wrestling School...Rumor has it Dustin Rhodes, Steve Austin and Brian Pillman all signed brand new two-year deals with WCW.

MSG RESULTS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1992

- The Bezerker pinned Jim Brunzell
- The Nasty Boys beat the Bushwackers
- The Warlord outbucked Chris Walker
- Sid Justice beat Hercules in less than one minute
- Roddy Piper defeated the Repo Man
- The Undertaker defeated Davey Boy Smith
- The Model Rick Martel upset the Big Bossman
- Sid Justice won a 20-man Battle Royal. (Hulk Hogan threw Sid out first, but the ref was knocked out -- Sid came back in and eliminated Hogan and woke up the ref.)

WWF TO FACE SUIT ALLEGING CHILD SEX ABUSE

by PHIL MUSHNICK

(Reprinted from 2/26/92 N.Y. Post)

The World Wrestling Federation, already reeling from allegations of persistent steroid abuse among its biggest kiddie-TV stars, appears headed towards even greater scandal.

According to several highly placed sources, a lawsuit will be filed soon alleging that male WWF administrative employees and executives sexually harassed and abused underage teenage boys who were engaged as ring assistants in the mid and late 1980's

The suit, which is expected to be filed early next month at a New York federal courthouse, will also, according to the sources, charge the WWF with transporting minors across state lines for the purpose of moral corruption, as well as violating child labor laws.

The plaintiff's tales of sexual misconduct by WWF employees, according to the sources, have been corroborated by another party, who claims to have been similarly abused while an underage teen in the employ of the WWF as a "ring boy," or go-fer.

A WWF staffer, speaking yesterday from the organization headquarters in Stamford, Connecticut, said the only authorized spokesman, Steve Planamenta, was unavailable for comment.

David (Dr. D) Shults, a former WWF star, may have provided credibility to allegations of sexual abuse within the WWF when he was quoted, last month, about the organization in an independent wrestling magazine, Pro Wrestling Torch: "We're talking about some of the top executive's sexual habits, their sexual preferences, sexual abuse and harassment." Shults recently joined another x-WWFER, Superstar Billy Graham, in providing detailed claims of pervasive illegal drug use within the WWF, including steroid abuse by the WWF's marquee performer, Hulk Hogan.

NEWSBRIEFS

YAMAMOTO DEAD

Tojo Yamamoto, 66, killed himself near his home outside Nashville, Tennessee last week. Yamamoto had been depressed over chronic liver and diabetes problems. He also had severe financial problems. Cause of death, a self inflicted gunshot wound. Another reason why pro wrestling so desperately needs a health and pension plan now!

POWER WINS LPWA TITLE

Terri Power defeated Lady X on Sunday, February 23rd in Rochester, Minnesota to win the Ladies Professional Wrestling Association title before a small live crowd, and most likely the smallest audience ever to watch a wrestling event on Pay Per View. Power won the match with a cross body tackle off the top rope after Lady X missed a flying head butt after loading her mask with a hidden object.

IWCCW COMING TO NEW YORK

A benefit for the Lupus Foundation will take place on Friday, March 13th in Brooklyn at Lafayette High School, Benson Ave, at 7:30 pm. The show is affiliated with the IWCCW. Call 718-372-3480 (day) or 718-382-7327 (evenings). Come on out and help a worthy cause.

JUST THE FACTS MA'AM

by VINCE RUSSO

John Arezzi's "Drugamania" stories really rocked me last week. Being a parent, these headlines deeply troubled me. If all these WWF drug allegations are true, then children all over the world would be crushed. You might wonder why we print such stories. It's simple - the public has the right to know. I have nothing against the WWF. I have been a fan of theirs for years. However, that doesn't change my job as a journalist. As a journalist my job is to report the facts, and we do that to the best of our abilities.

Before we publish any story we first confirm it with a second source. I have also vowed to contact the WWF before we go to press with every story we have concerning them. It will be their prerogative to either verify or deny the allegations. Before our last story went to press, I tried on three occasions to contact Steve Planamenta, head of public relations for Titan Sports. Unfortunately, Mr. Planamenta did not return my calls. Again, that is his prerogative. If Steve Planamenta had indeed returned my calls, I would have been more than happy to have printed his remarks whether they be positive or negative.

I understand why Steve Planamenta might feel that the media has negative feelings towards him and Titan Sports. In our last conversation, he informed me that "nobody had the guts to talk to our doctors concerning our steroid testing. I guess people felt that the truth would hurt their stories." Well, Mr. Planamenta, this writer does have the guts, and I will in fact try to contact you this week to get permission to talk to your doctors, and then tell your side of the story. This is America, you are entitled to that.

In closing, I just want our readers and our listeners to know that on every occasion when we break a major story, we personally will try to contact the parties involved to get their remarks. Again, if they fail to cooperate, there is nothing more we can do.

MAKING OF A CHAMPION

A Continuing Saga... I was a soccer goalie in high school. While attending college I played tackle football every Sunday for three straight years. I also played basketball on my college fraternity team where no blood -- no foul, meant exactly that. I've had my fingers smashed playing deck hockey, and at 31 I'm a catcher for a baseball team. My body has been through it all...except this. I have been laid up in bed for the past two days, as my back is in excruciating pain. People who laugh at professional wrestling for being **fake** can kiss my petunia. This pain is **very real**.

This week I primarily worked out with a couple of Johnny Rodz' students. Even though they only had about five or six months of experience under their belts, they

were more impressive than many other so-called professionals. Head locks, leg sweeps, snap mares, arm locks, I did it all this week. Not to mention I fell...I fell...I fell...and then I fell. That should explain my back problems. Bob Davis seemed to have gotten over his fear of falling. He now hits the mat without hesitation. In a short time he has come a long way. I, on the other hand, must admit that I do have a fear of falling. Throwing yourself backwards on a mat is just an awkward feeling. Thank God, I'm only going to be a manager.

One thing that I have especially enjoyed at Johnny Rodz' school is the camaraderie. There is no competition here. All the wrestling hopefuls are on each others side. I have been playing baseball for some 24 years and I have never experienced a "team" feeling like the one which I experience at this school. All the wrestlers work with each other in developing their skills. There is no jealousy, no arguing, and no attitudes. It is a breath of fresh air to see these young men take their training so seriously. They realize that there is much more to becoming a professional wrestler than just showmanship. Athletic ability is involved, selling yourself as well as your opponent is involved, and the talent of being able to take a bump is involved. You could start a federation with these hungry kids and it would be more convincing than half the garbage you see on television. I wonder if the Kip Frey's and the Vince McMahon's of the world have ever visited a place like this, cause brother, this is what it's all about.

BOOB TUBE BASHINGS & BRAVOS WWF

If I see the events that led up to the announcement of the Hogan-Justice match at Wrestlemania VIII one more time, I think I'll vomit. Enough is enough already -- we get the picture.

There was one highlight on Prime Time Wrestling February 17th...Sherri's dress. **Mamma Mia**. Why doesn't she just come out naked?

We finally got to see the Roberts-Undertaker incident. That's not bad considering it **only** took place a month ago. I think it was an effective angle, and I believe Vince made the proper decision in turning Mark Calaway babyface. It was interesting to see Paul Bearer alongside the Undertaker as he grabbed the chair from "The Snake." Does this mean that Bearer will remain as manager of the Undertaker? I hope so. Breaking up this team would be like breaking up Abbott and Costello.

WCW

Greg Valentine's first match in the WCW ended with an impressive victory as "The Hammer" slapped the figure-4 on his helpless opponent. By the time you read this, the team of Valentine/Taylor will be the new U.S. tag-team champions.

Ricky Steamboat did a "Say No To Steroids" commercial. Great idea by Kip Frey and the rest of the WCW brass. Why doesn't the WWF doesn't install a program like this.

Next week the Global Wrestling Federation will be added to this column.

EXCERPTS FROM WCW STEROID POLICY

General Statement of Policy

World Championship Wrestling is opposed to the use by WCW personnel of anabolic androgenic steroids (including exogenous testosterone), growth hormones, and related substances. These substances have no legitimate place in professional wrestling and have the potential to be a serious detriment to both the WCW and its athletes. The specifics of the policy are as follows:

Wrestlers may not, under any circumstances, use anabolic steroids, growth hormones, related substances, or masking agents designed to hide the presence of steroids or related substances in a wrestler's system.

Bookers, trainers or other wrestling personnel may not condone, encourage supply, or otherwise facilitate in any way the use of steroids or any related substance.

WCW physicians may not prescribe, or otherwise supply or facilitate, a wrestler's use of steroids, including by prescribing or otherwise supplying masking agents, except in cases of legitimate need.

All WCW personnel, including wrestlers, are subject to discipline by the Executive Vice President for violation of this policy or federal or state laws relating to possession and distribution of steroids.

Reasons for the Policy

WCW's decision to institute this policy is based on three primary factors. First, WCW is concerned with the adverse health effects of steroid use. Although research is continuing, steroid use has been linked to liver, kidney, heart, cholesterol, psychological, orthopedic, reproductive, and other health problems.

Second, steroid use by WCW wrestlers sends the wrong message to young people who may be tempted to use steroids. Steroid abuse is increasing among high school and college athletes and WCW personnel should not by their own conduct suggest that such use is either acceptable or safe, whether in the context of sports or otherwise.

Third, the use of steroids without a medical prescription is a violation of federal and some state laws. The role of professional wrestling as a continuing source of family entertainment is undermined by the perception of pervasive illegal drug abuse of any kind.

Discipline

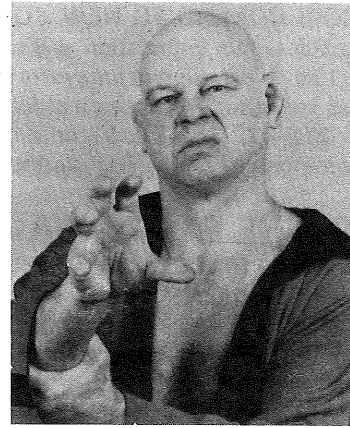
Wrestlers with a confirmed positive test result will be discipline by the Executive Vice President. Before a wrestler is reinstated following a suspension, he must test negative for steroids and must be approved as by the wrestling physician.

--the first time a wrestler tests positive, he will be required to undergo counselling under the supervision of the Advisor and will be required to test negative before returning.

--the second time a wrestler tests positive, he will be suspended without pay for a minimum of three months.

--the third time a wrestler tests positive, he will be banned from World Championship Wrestling.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW



I recently caught up with the master of the "brain claw." The one...the only...Baron Von Raschke. Here's what the good Baron had to say.

Pro Wrestling Spotlight Weekly: *Tell me about the beginnings of your career.*

Baron Von Raschke: I wrestled amateur in high school and college. I attended the University of Nebraska, and also played football there. I was then drafted in the army and wrestled there. I made two world teams and the Olympic team. I didn't go to the Olympics in 1964 because of injury. I had 11 years of amateur wrestling. After that I taught school, but figured out that there must be a better way to make money. I contacted a man by the name of Joe Dusack who was a promoter in my hometown of Omaha, Nebraska. He connected me with Verne Gagne who started me wrestling. I broke into the business as a referee, I also would set up the ring. This was around 1966-67.

PWSW: *Did you start off using the Baron gimmick, or did you first wrestle under your real name?*

BVR: I first wrestled under my real name. Mad Dog Vachon was very big in Minneapolis at the time, he saw me hanging around and one day he said, "You'd make a good German!" I told him I was a German. He talked me into going up to Quebec that summer. I did, and that's where Baron Von Raschke first started.

PWSW: *I assume that's where the brain claw also originated.*

BVR: No. I used the backbreaker and the cobra clutch for about four or five years. I started using the claw in St. Louis. It took about five years to perfect. I liked it, so I kept using it.

PWSW: *Where did you go after the AWA?*

BVR: Up to Montreal, Canada. From there to Detroit for the Shiek. Then I wrestled down in Texas, from there I went to Indianapolis and wrestled for Snyder and the Bruiser for four or five years. I then went back to Minneapolis for a couple of years before I went to New York where I wrestled for the WWWF for six months. After that I went to Charlotte, North Carolina for five years, then back to Minneapolis again.

PWSW: *You only wrestled for the WWWF for six months?*

BVR: Yes. However, I came back to manage the Powers of Pain for a short time a couple of years ago.

PWSW: *Was that the last time you were actively*

involved in professional wrestling?

BVR: No, I still wrestle. About four times a month.

PWSW: *What were some of your most memorable moments in the sport?*

BVR: When I got a chance to wrestle for championships. Wrestling Fritz Von Erich, Verne Gagne, Bruno Sammartino, Pat O'Connor, Dory Funk Jr, Ric Flair, pick one of those.

PWSW: *How would you compare wrestling today to when you were in your prime?*

BVR: Steroids have changed a lot of things. Back when I started you became a character through wrestling. Now the character seems so artificial, they are all taken from comic strips. They're geared down to little kids. They've reduced it to the lowest common denominator. But it works, so I'm not knocking it.

PWSW: *If that is the case, what does the future of professional wrestling hold?*

BVR: It's always worked in a cycle. It's always had its ups and downs, and it's not in a healthy position right now. You've only got one organization that can make any money with it. But it will probably shake itself out.

"YOU CAN'T KILL THE DEVIL" OR THE DEATH OF KEVIN SULLIVAN by JOHN AREZZI



Kevin Sullivan is one of my closest friends in the wrestling business. I've known Kevin since 1975, when he was just breaking in the business. So, when I heard about Kevin's "death" it stunned me.

My phone rang at 1 pm on February 17th. Carmine Disperio (editor of "Wrestling Eye" magazine, aka "The Creator", aka "Hubie Marxx") asked if I heard anything about Kevin Sullivan. "No, I didn't," I replied. "He's dead," said Carmine. "Died of an overdose." My heart went in my mouth. I immediately hung up to try to confirm the story. I first tried Kevin's number. His machine picked up. It was an eerie feeling listening to his voice when he might be dead. I left a meek message asking someone to call me about something I heard about Kevin. I hung up.

Calls were placed to George Napolitano, other wrestlers, promoters, and reporters. No one knew anything. Finally at 5 pm I spoke to Kip Frey, who informed me that he spoke to Kevin earlier in the day. Whewww! From relief, my feelings turned to anger. Who started this rumor, and why? That night I must have received twenty-five calls, all telling me Kevin Sullivan was dead. And, there must have been a dozen different causes of his death. From a drowning, to being shot, to the drug O.D. The stories were getting more fantastic as they were coming in. I was really angry about all this, but getting more curious about how Kevin and Nancy ("Woman") Sullivan were reacting.

The following day I got Nancy on the phone. She told me that it was a madhouse at their place for the past two days. They literally got over 100 calls about Kevin's "death." I asked her to have Kevin call me. Later that evening my phone rang. "This is a dead man calling." I picked up to speak to my dearly departed friend, Kevin. What follows is Kevin's description of the events surrounding his death.

"All this started on Friday (February 14th). I got a call from Janie at the WCW offices. She said she heard that I died in a car wreck. I assured her I was OK and that was the end of it. On Sunday Nancy and I went to get Hump (Oliver Humperdink) to go to the Ed Gantner Memorial Service. In the car Hump told me he got a call from a girl he knows in Charlotte, North Carolina who said I was shot in a bar. This gets even stranger. We stayed away from home on Sunday. Monday we got home around 5:30 pm and in our parking lot is the Chief of Police, who is a good friend of mine. He was ready to knock down my door because he heard I was dead inside the apartment. We got in the house and there were a hundred calls on the machine. Here I was at a memorial service for a friend and everyone is saying I'm dead. It's nuts! The craziest story we heard was that Hump came to my house with two guys. There was a drug deal that went bad and I had a gun fight. I was shooting everyone, I was killed and Hump was kidnapped. What the hell could you get for ransom for Humperdink, two pairs of sweatsocks? Then we heard Nancy was locked up for conspiracy. It was mad. At least I know I got a lot of friends."

Apparently the rumor started on the Comp-U-Serve computer service, which has a wrestling insider information program. The mix-up probably resulted with confusion over Buzz Sawyer's death, and some idiot not knowing his facts.

The story is funny, in a way now. But when you hear about the death of a friend, it's scary. Nancy summed it up when she said, "Remember one thing John, you can't kill the devil."

WRESTLING RADIO RUMBLINGS

by DONNY LAIBLE

HOST: Cody Boyns

WHERE: WALE-990 AM, Providence, Rhode Island

WHEN: Sundays, 8-10 pm

Wrestling fans in New England, if you haven't done so yet, do yourself a favor and tune into Cody Boyns' radio show. Originally bringing his two hours of talk to the

airwaves from July 1989 through May 1990, after a hiatus (Cody has three young children, need I say more?) last December 1 he brought his humorous outlook on wrestling back to New Englanders.

A fan of the sport for twenty years, Boyns, 27, has had The Fabulous Moolah, Jim Cornette, "Superstar" Billy Graham, and most recently Jesse Ventura as guests. "The toughest part about doing the show is asking the right questions. The last thing I want to do is offend anybody. I'm looked at as a bit of a wise-guy on the show but I make it a point to know what not to say," Boyns said.

As host, Cody claims it's his listeners that keep the show rolling with a constant full bank of callers. Residing in Ducksberry, Massachusetts, traveling to the Boston Garden and surrounding towns for independent shows are where Cody draws much of his news for the Sunday night show. "All subjects concerning wrestling are open for discussion during the show's two hours. Besides the radio show, I do a cable TV wrestling show, and my brother Jody puts out a newsletter," Cody stated.

Curt Hennig is his favorite wrestler today. His message to promoters of the big two U.S. promotions -- "Get the drugs out of wrestling." For information on Cody Boyns' show and obtaining tapes (both radio and TV) -- write: PO Box 4052, Plymouth, MA 02361.

THE WRESTLING MENU

by **DONNY LAIBLE**

You're darn right I'm ecstatic over Barry Horowitz winning the Global Wrestling Federation light heavyweight championship from Jerry Lynn on February 7. Everything about the GWF thrills me. Eddie Gilbert **always** gets the most mileage out of the talent he has working for him, wherever he's booking. Remember "Hotstuff's" magic worked in Alabama with Continental during 1988? Only Eddie could take Alan Martin and successfully transform him in the fan's eyes as a main eventer. The GWF may lack the glitz some from the wrestling public feel is necessary, to me the bottom line is -- it's a wrestling show, with a wrestling atmosphere and most importantly no zoo keeper is needed.

Don't you just love watching Paul E. Dangerously slamming his telephone on the security folks when they run in the ring to keep the peace? He must be a happy camper as **the** manager in the fame today in North America. What a great position to be in come contract time...Think back to 1988 and Jarrett's promotion. In case you forgot, at that time Cactus Jack was managed by Downtown Bruno (Harvey Whippleman) and Sid Vicious (Justice) debuted on WMC-TV 5 in Memphis by defeating Tom King in October...Okay, you're going to want to write this date on a calendar. March 13 is then ABC TV's 20/20 show will be airing their interview with "Superstar" Billy Graham.

By way of "Mr. Wonderful" Paul Orndorff forfeiting his claim to the American Wrestling Federation heavyweight belt, promoter Gordon Scozzari has announced "Sweet" Stan Lane as the new champ of his promotion. The AWF canceled their February bookings and state that their next set of TV tapes in the New England area are set for April 10-12, including one show in Lowell,

Massachusetts...Hurray for Greg Valentine coming home to his rasslin roots -- the NWA, I mean WCW. In April it will be a dozen years since he and Ray Stevens won the NWA world tag straps. With a new working environment, watch Greg turn up the gas in his ring work.

Whoever booed Rocky Tamayo you're out of my will...Correct me if I'm wrong but wasn't Ric Flair wrestling Kevin Sullivan on the same card in which Bruno Sammartino had his neck broken by Stan Hansen?...You want to know a new definition of the word shame? Lance Russell being regulated to doing 900 phone work and not in front of the WCW cameras...Congrats to Jim Ross for comparing a punch to one of the wrestler's chest during a recent broadcast to that of Stan Stasiak's heart punch...Eastern Championship Wrestling is setting up dates in the Philly area. Larry Winters and others once with the TWA are attempting to make a go of it. Speaking of the TWA, I hear Joel Goodhart has interviewed with several insurance companies for employment.

Oh no, I almost forgot the weekly trivia test. Got your thinking masks on -- okay, here goes -- the late Chris Taylor made his pro debut with the WWWF on March 26, 1976 in Madison Square Garden -- who was his opponent?...Hint, he's the only known wrestler from this region...**I plan on attending the WCW Worcester, Massachusetts show on March 28th. Any readers who have similar plans, contact me so we can have an unofficial gathering of Spotlighters...Help me out there, was the late WWWF agent Coogie McFarland the man Hollywood molded Jason (you know, the horror movie guy) after?**

Condolences to Buzz Sawyer's family on their loss. When Buzz entered the WWF, wasn't he called Bulldog Sawyer and managed by Lou Albano? Here's the trivia answer -- Baron Mikel Scicluna from the Isle of Malta...Here's an idea for promoter Dennis Caroluzzo -- sign a match between Victor Rivera, Jr. vs. Bulldog Brower, Jr. with their dads in their corners...It's plug time, guys and gals --

Georgiann Makropoulous, 23-44 30th Drive, Astoria, New York 11102-3252 has many wrestling "goodies" being offered at a steal folks. Wrestling's #1 female fan is selling copies of last year's **UWF Beach Brawl** video for \$12.95 which includes postage and handling. Wait, there's more -- for one buck and a first class stamp you can have a Wrestling Fan On Board sign to hang on the inside of our car window and let's not forget **The Wrestling Chatterbox** newsletter at \$2.50 monthly. Each issue runs anywhere from 26 to 32 pages full of photos, contexts with prizes, newspaper clippings, result, you name it!

Garry Langevin, 124 Maple Street, Newport, Vermont 05855-1418 is looking for good to excellent VHS video copies of WWF Championship Wrestling 1984 to 1986 complete shows with McMahon and Bruno hosting. Garry has a collection of over 600 tapes to choose from, write for his video list. He also publishes a newsletter called **ON THE MAT** (bi-monthly) \$2.00 per issue/\$12.00 for one year...Whoever can supply me regularly with tapes from Mexico, let's talk...Sunflower wrestling in the central states has numerous novelties (Hey -- isn't that **(Continued on page 8)**)

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ORDER FROM: Pro Wrestling Spotlight Weekly, 99 Middle Country Road, Coram, NY 11727

*4/9/89-Show #1 DEBUT SHOW. Jimmy Hart, Ricky Steamboat, Mark Tendler, Kevin Sullivan, Mike Rotunda, Road Warrior, Animal, Paul Ellering, Brian Donahue, Don Liable.

*4/16/89-Show #2. Part 1-Bruno Sammartino, Michael P.S. Hayes, The Power Twins, Dave Meltzer.

*4/22/89-Show #3. Part 2-Bruno Sammartino, Paul E. Dangerously, The Power Twins, Mark Tendler, Brian Donahue.

**4/29/89-Show #4. Co-host Gary Capetta, AWA Champ Larry Zbyszko, Johnny Valiant, Power Twins, Don Liable.

*5/7/89-Show #5. Captain Lou Albano, George Napolitano, Power Twins, promoter Mitch Steinfeld, Johnny Rodz.

*5/14/89-Show #6. Professor Toru Tanaka, Paul E. Dangerously, Kevin Sullivan, Dave Meltzer, Power Twins, Don Liable.

*5/21/89-Show #7. Lou Thesz, Bruno Sammartino, Don Liable.

*5/29-Show #8. Killer Kowalski, Sgt. Slaughter.

*6/4/89-Show #9. Bobo Brazil, Mario Savoldi, Don Liable.

**6/11/89-Show #10. Paul E. Dangerously. Replay of 4/16/89 and 4/22/89 interview with Bruno Sammartino, parts 1 & 2.

*6/25/89-Show #12. Teddy Long & Norman the Lunatic, The Fabulous Freebirds, Jim Cornette, Paul E. Dangerously, David Sammartino, Don Liable.

*7/2/89-Show #13. Ricky Steamboat, Hot Stuff Eddie Gilbert, Gary Hart, Lady Wrestlers Britney Brown & Rosebud, Don Liable.

*7/9/89-Show #14. Terry Funk, Missy Hyatt, Dr Death Steve Williams, Paul E. Dangerously, Mitch Steinfeld.

*7/16/89-Show #15. Co-Host WWF Women's Champ Rockin Robin, Scott Hall.

*7/23/89-Show #16. Live Reports from NWA Glory Days. Repeat interviews with Terry Funk, Teddy Long, Freebirds, Jim Cornette, Paul E. Dangerously, Ricky Steamboat, Eddie Gilbert, Steve Williams.

*7/30/89-Show #17. Bruno Sammartino live taking phone calls, Dave Meltzer, Don Liable.

*8/6/89-Show #18. Ricky Steamboat (on his NWA departure), Don Liable.

*8/13/89-Show #19. NWA Exec VP Jim Herd, Dave Meltzer, Don Liable.

*8/20/89-Show #20. Stu Hart, Bruce Hart, Editors (The Wrestling Journal) Dave Rubin & Jon Elfenbein, Don Liable.

*9/3/89-Show #22. Sting, Flying Brian Pillman, Johnny Valiant.

*9/10/89-Show #23. Lou Thesz, Tommy Rich, Teddy Long.

*9/17/89-Show #24. Special co-host Cactus Jack Manson (Cactus' first appearance on PWS).

*9/24/89-Show #25. Paul E. Dangerously (Paul E. announces his departure from NWA), Dave Meltzer.

*10/8/89-Show #26. Teddy Long, Dave Meltzer.

*10/15/89-Show #27. Bruno Sammartino, Mark Tendler, Black Venus.

*10/29/89-Show #29. Guest co-host Paul E. Dangerously.

*11/5/89-Show #30. Guests George Napolitano, Tom Burke, taped interview with Ric Flair.

*11/12/89-Show #31. Guests Brandimae, Lou Albano, Johnny Valiant, Ivan Koloff

*11/19/89-Show #32. Guests Bob Smith (Pro Wrestling Illustrated), Bam Bam Bigelow, Paul E. Dangerously with Survivor Series Predictions.

**SEE NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE FOR MORE
TAPES.**

THE WRESTLING MENU (Continued from page 6)

Mel Philips' line?) available. Gary Waugh, 310 N. Oakdale, Salina, Kansas 67401 is your contact man. Gary's offering for \$10.00 plus \$3.00 postage a VHS copy of their January 19, 1992 show, T-shirts are \$15.00 postage included, and 8x10 photos are \$1.50 postage included (send a SASE for a list).

The Mongolian Mauler is offering T-shirts and hats. Drop him a card for prices at: PO Box 337, Murfreesboro, TN 37133-0337...If you collect wrestling treasures, don't wait another day to order Sheldon Goldberg's MAT MARKETPLACE. It's a MUST -- \$2.50 per issue --PO Box 2371, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130.

As always feel free to contact me with suggestions, news, and samples of your work. And remember -- find me Sky Low Low!! Donny Laible, PO Box 443, Ilion, NY 13357.

FANS' MAT MEMORIES

by GARY LEWIS
HICKSVILLE, NY

It was the early sixties at Madison Square Garden. The Grahams wrestled Mark Lewin (good, cleancut) and Don Curtis. But my memory is of the evening's finale, Pat O'Connor vs. Haystacks Calhoun in a good guy battle. Only O'Connor was prepared to wrestle though, as Calhoun stalled until curfew, eliciting boos from the crowd.

After leaving, my friend and I met a group of kids gazing into the locker room through a hole in the 50th street side of the building. Sure enough, Calhoun, who wrestled in overalls had left immediately, passed by and scared the heck out of us when he noticed what we were up to. I responded with a wise crack and can still vividly recall the big monster chasing me towards 9th Avenue and hearing a loud thud, which turned out to be his suitcase being thrown (unsuccessfully, thank goodness) at me. When I realized he had given up, I waited until the coast was clear and returned to the others, waiting patiently until Pat O'Connor emerged (by the way Pat's wife was named "Remember") and told him the story. O'Connor then asked me to get him a cab, which after checking to make sure Calhoun was definitely gone, I gladly did.

FANS' MAT MEMORIES

by VINNY LoFRANCO
WEST BABYLON, NY

Just as fellow PWSW fan Steve Tobkes said in Issue 5 I have my own memory of what I believe to be the same NWA premiere show at the Nassau Coliseum on Thanksgiving Eve, 1987. While Steve focused on the anticipating and event itself, my memory is after the matches.

My friend Mike and myself decided to head over to the Marriott Hotel for a post match cocktail. We were quite annoyed when told there was a \$7 admission to get into the night club. We then spotted Rick Steiner among the crowd mingling outside the club. He apparently was just passing through. Then we spotted Ron Simmons who entered the night club. We tried to peek inside to see if

any other wrestlers were there. I don't recall which ones we were able to spot, but it was enough for us to pay the fee. When we got inside we looked this way and saw a friendly looking Ivan Koloff speaking to some fans. I can still remember him with a 3-piece grey suit and a long neck Budweiser! We looked over another area and saw the Barbarian and Warlord chatting with some young fans. They were very intimidating looking and really didn't look like they'd be interested in talking to us. Looking toward the bar were the Shepherders (Bushjerkers) having a seemingly good time. Later on I was within 5 feet of Luke and just could not find the right way to approach this crazed villain. In another direction was Stan Lane and Bobby Eaton. In another area was a real quiet loner with a crew cut like haircut. It was Sting wandering around and nobody seemed to know him. He wasn't as big a star then as he is now. At the bar was Big Bubba (Bossman) still dressed in the complete black outfit he always wore to the ring. We asked him where Cornette was and he merely (and unfriendly like) replied "I don't know, I think he's up in his room." A couple of other guys there were the Jive Tones. Remember them? Pistol pez Whatley & Tiger Conway Jr. They were fun and sociable funny guys. We finally got our chance with our favorite veteran Koloff and when I told Ivan I was there the night he beat Bruno for the title he (not believing me) said "everyone tells me that." But Ivan, I really was there! He was by far the most cordial wrestler. Most intimidating? Warlord, by far.

We tried again at the next NWA card. The Warlord was seen passing through the lobby. We paid our \$8 and went in the club and didn't find ONE wrestler. What happened? Who knows. But we sure enjoyed that first night.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

K. ALLEN FREY

The cold war has seemingly come to an end in the free world and after listening to the **Pro Wrestling Spotlight Radio Hour** on Sunday, February 16, it appears that the cold war is over between World Championship Wrestling and the wrestling media.

K. Allen Frey was a breath of fresh air with his candid replies to the questions that were asked of him by the listening audience. He provided us with his insight as to where WCW is headed. He didn't avoid any subject that was asked of him. Perhaps one of the more encouraging comments by Mr. Frey was his willingness to let performers from WCW appear on the show.

With all of the negative publicity surrounding wrestling today, Kip Frey's enthusiasm will hopefully provide the tonic to make us proud again to be a fan of championship wrestling.

Steve Tobkes
West Hempstead, NY

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THE BALLAD OF CACTUS JACK

By Pete Theophall & Charlie Gavinelli

Cactus Jack is a friend of mine,
He drops great big elbows all the time!

He and Gilbert wrestled everywhere,
Bottles busted over heads of hair!

Barbed wire matches, falls count anywhere,
Cactus takes bumps better than Ric Flair!

He finished Gilbert then he left Tri-State,
Goodhart never had no one so great!

Now he's in WCW,
Other wrestlers don't know what to do!

He looks nasty and he sure is big,
He might bite you then squeal like a pig!

Tongue sticks out where once there were two teeth,
He gives other wrestlers lots of grief!

He goes "Bang! Bang!" when he's in the ring,
He beat Hammer, now he's after Sting!

On Sting's head, an elbow he'd deliver,
The lump in Sting's throat really was his liver!

At the Clash 'gainst Hammer it was simple,
Cactus kept his promise, popped that pimple!

He hit Abby with a Kendo stick,
Now the Butcher isn't quite so quick!

He choked Abby, eyes popped, face turned blue,
That guy has more breasts than Frank Perdue!

Cactus built a ladder to the stars,
Dropped an elbow on the world from Mars!

Hot-shots, suplex, Cactus does it all,
Observer voted Jack the "King of Brawl"!

Fans are lucky when the ring he graces,
He can't jump high, so he jumps from high places!

He went "Bang! Bang!" at home with his wife,
Now there is a baby in their life!

You may not believe me, I ain't lyin',
Little Dewey was born with elbows flyin'!

Little Dewey surely wasn't bored,
Choked two nurses with it's umbilical cord!

Cactus Jack is a friend of mine,
He drops great big elbows all the time!

MAT MEMORIES

by JOHN AREZZI

I've gotten to know a lot of people in the wrestling business over the past 20 years, many of them before they made their living from pro wrestling. Paul E. Dangerously, Tom Pritchard, Eddie Gilbert, all were friends or acquaintances before they made it in wrestling. One of the most ironic twists regarding those whose past crossed with mine before making a living in wrestling, is Steve Planamenta. The WWF head honcho of propaganda at one time was someone I knew as "Little Stevie."

Back in the 1970's, while I attended college, my best buddy, Bill Martin, used to bust my chops as often as possible about pro wrestling. He laughed and made fun of my hobby, until one day when he returned from a visit home. Bill lived in Ossining, New York and one of his neighbors was the Planamenta family. "I didn't know you were a celebrity", Bill sarcastically told me upon his return to the dormitory. He explained that while he was home, he learned of the obsession his neighbor, "Little Stevie" Planamenta, had with pro wrestling. When Bill mentioned my name to "Little Stevie", the youngster almost went into shock. Stevie knew me from the extensive work I did with the newsstand wrestling magazines. Billy promised him my autograph.

For the next several weeks Bill hounded me to write a letter to "Little Stevie." Finally, I sent him a note with some wrestling photos. Eventually I even got to meet my "fan". I visited Bill during his semester break, and he persuaded me to meet the little guy.

In April of 1989 I was about to begin broadcasting the Pro Wrestling Spotlight on WNYG-AM. I called the WWF in hopes of beginning a working relationship with them. During the call a voice on the other end of the phone said "I know you Jack, this is Steve Planamenta." It didn't register at first, until he said, "I'm Bill Martin's friend." It finally hit me. "Little Stevie" Planamenta, I laughed into the phone. Steve then explained the WWF policy about dealing with pro wrestling talk shows. There was no cooperation. He said the guy on WFAN (Rich Mancuso) was a jerk, and the guy in Philadelphia (Joel Goodhart) constantly buried the WWF. However, he agreed to cooperate with me, partially because of our past "history." For my debut show, April 9, 1989, I was given the opportunity to record an interview with Jimmy Hart which went great. But, the very next week I had another taped interview on my show. This time my guest was Bruno Sammartino, who as you probably could imagine, did not have too many nice things to say about the WWF. In fact, he said some things I did not air, not wanting to get him in any kind of legal trouble. After that show aired, the WWF requested a copy of that tape. I explained I had edited parts out of the show and would be happy to give them an air check of the broadcast. That wasn't good enough, they wanted the entire interview. From that day on until August 1991 the WWF did not accept my phone calls.

I met Stevie face to face after all these years at Vince McMahon's July 1991 press conference announcing Titan Sports steroid policy. Of course, I had to use an alias to get in, as the wrestling media was uninvited to this historic event. After Vince stepped off the podium I confronted him about excluding the wrestling media from

the event. It was then "Little Stevie" and I saw each other face to face. He stepped in and said the wrestling media wasn't excluded at all, they just never called to ask about credentials. How do you usually learn about a press conference so you can ask about credentials? The party holding the press conference usually contacts the media. The New York Post columnist Phil Mushnick wrote about this incident and lo and behold a few weeks later a friendlier, downright chummy, Steve Planamenta called to invite me to the now famous "Hour With Vince." Open communication with the WWF now allegedly existed. Only, when you called Steve for information, you usually got no information, except -- "I don't know" or "I haven't heard about that." After a few months I decided not to waste my time any longer.

Looking at Steve today I can't help but remember him as a young fan. He was so full of youthful enthusiasm and love for the wrestling business. He is a lot older now -- but, he will always be "Little Stevie" Planamenta to me.

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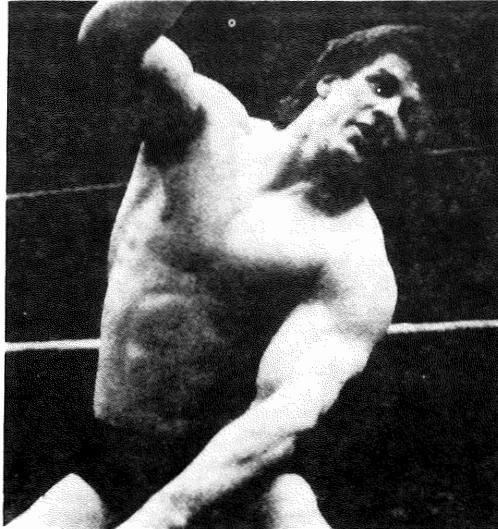
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